

DOWNLOAD PDF MAPPING THE FUTURE OF AMERICAS NATIONAL PARKS

Chapter 1 : National Parks Conservation Association

He has written about national parks, archaeology, cultural history, wildlife, and conservation for The Press Enterprise, where he was a reporter and editor. Previously, he was a staff writer for Newsday and The Los Angeles Times.

Barbara Noe A century ago, there were no guidelines for creating a national park, because nothing like them existed anywhere in the world. It was generally agreed that the pristine nature of the United States should be preserved for posterity, as well as for conservation reasons – but how? Great minds tussled over the issue, all with an eye on Niagara Falls which, at the turn of the s, was already ravaged by commercialism. Yellowstone was the first national park ever to exist, designated in Its status sparked an idea that spread across the country and then across the world. National parks were spaces that human kind deemed precious and worth protecting. Yosemite, Mount Rainier, Wind Cave and Mesa Verde all gained status too, until eventually, in , the National Parks System was created – one entity charged with overseeing all aspects of these wildernesses. Glacier Point Road leads to perhaps the most spectacular vista in any national park, looking down on Yosemite Valley from 3, ft. Wawona, near the southern entrance, provides a starter for the famous Mariposa Grove of sky-scraping sequoias. Conservationist John Muir wrote about Yosemite c. Yosemite National Park Credit: Acadia, Maine Every morning, in the predawn darkness, a crowd gathers on Cadillac Mountain, part of Mount Desert Island along the Atlantic seaboard, peering expectantly to the east. Indeed, from its ragged shoreline and sheltered coves, to offshore rocky isles, to the serrated mountains of Mount Desert lording over swaths of pines and marshy meadows, there is much to applaud at this nearly 50-acre park. Twenty-mile Park Loop Road is the best way to take it all in, teetering high above the sea with spacious coastal views before careening inland through mountainous forest and meadow-carpeted valleys. Rockefeller, Jr, an early park proponent, to showcase the best Mount Desert vistas. At the top are breathtaking top-of-the-mountain views of the sparkling Atlantic and Frenchman Bay. Acadia National Park Credit: Channel Islands, California Though Channel Islands lies just 11 miles off the southern California coast, less than an hour away by boat, few people actually venture to this undeveloped, eight-island chain five comprise the national park. Just as amazing is the life in the surrounding waters: The largest aggregation of blue whales in the world convenes here every summer. So you can imagine the silver platter of outdoorsy activities available – kayaking through sea caves, camping on lonely bluffs, hiking to a pinniped rookery, diving to explore giant kelp beds. The list goes on and on. The best tours of North America 4. Upgraded from national monument to national park in due in part to its important condor recovery program, Pinnacles is little trekked and little known – one of the best reasons to visit. Its postage-stamp size, just 26, acres preserving ancient volcanic remnants, makes it manageable in a day. Strike out on more than 30 miles of trails ranging from easy to arduous, through fairyland forests and green valleys, past serrated spires and precariously balanced boulders, and into pitch-black, bat-inhabited talus caves take a headlamp. Tackle its hundreds of crowd-free rock-climbing routes. And always keep an eye out for condors, those prehistoric-looking raptors with wingspans reaching up to 10 ft; their favorite haunts include High Peaks in the early morning or early evening, or along the ridge just southeast of the campground. Pinnacles National Park Credit: But nothing prepares you for its vastness, or intense beauty, as you stand on its edge, peering far, far down to the Colorado River. Grand Canyon ranks as the second most visited national park, with some five million people every year, mostly along the South Rim. The flat, paved Rim Trail is the easiest, while the classic 9. Trip of a Lifetime Or focus on the pine-forested North Rim, which receives 10 per cent of park visitors. You can also hop on a raft and admire the canyon from the bottom up; sleeping along the riverbank under the dark, starry sky will be an experience you never forget. Yavapai Point, near the South Rim visitor area, offers a stunning, unobstructed, up-and-down panorama of the inner canyon, Bright Angel Canyon, and Colorado River with very little effort. Grand Canyon National Park Credit: Denali, Alaska Only one road accesses six-million-acre Denali, a single, mostly unpaved, mile strip that opens up dramatic views of the subarctic wilderness – and perhaps offers the

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best chance to experience wildlife of any national park. No cars are allowed beyond Mile 15; everyone must jump aboard a shuttle bus. At the end of the road awaits loon-inhabited Wonder Lake, with stunning reflections of Denali on clear-sky days. Stony Hill Overlook, at Mile 15, is also the spot to see the nearby Toklat wolf pack; during migration periods, some 2,000 caribou pass through here as well. Denali National Park Credit: Kenai Fjords, Alaska From the massive Harding Icefield, huge glaciers grind their way slowly but surely to the sea, leaving behind jagged headlands, rocky peninsulas and rough-hewn fjords. The best way to explore this icy wonderland is aboard a boat or kayak on Resurrection Bay. At calving Aialik Glacier, watch huge chunks of ice plummeting into the sea. Perhaps even more bedazzling is the abundance of sealife: Bald eagles float along towering cliffs, and seabirds including cute puffins congregate by the thousands. With more time, seek out Northwestern Lagoon, quiet and serene, ideal for camping in solitary splendor. For landlubbers, the Harding Icefield Trail is a sublime walk from the face of Exit Glacier to Harding Icefield, with the chance to spot black bear along the way. Kenai Fjords Glacier Lodge, accessible only via four-hour boat ride, sits on Pedersen Lagoon in the heart of the national park, offering guided hikes, canoeing and relaxing on the porch. Kenai Fjords National Park Credit: The famous surface lava flows about 12 miles east, at the end of Chain of Craters Road. The park provides daily updates of where the lava is flowing – in this capricious landscape it may be a mile from the road, several miles over dicey terrain – or unreachable. Olympic, Washington Triply blessed with spellbinding ecosystems, Olympic amazes with an abundance of pristine beauty. Above all rises Mount Olympus, named by a British fur trader who, upon viewing the mountain at sunset in 1792, thought it could be nothing else but the dwelling place of the gods. In this innermost realm, snowcapped mountains tower more than 7,000 ft, punctuated with 11 major rivers, waterfalls, flower-laden meadows and trout-filled lakes. This mossy, ferny realm, showcasing soaring old-growth trees more than 20 stories high some years old is so dark and wet it appears under water. Keep an eye out for the Gaton Goliath, a 100-ft Douglas-fir, as well as the resident Roosevelt elk. And then you have the Pacific coastline – 73 miles of wild, wave-battered, driftwood-strewn beaches, domain of sea lions and seals. Peek into tide pools, stroll past offshore sea stacks and watch for bald eagles and Western gulls. Among the numerous trailheads here, Hurricane Hill wanders beside alpine meadows overlooking views, views, views. Watch out for rambunctious mountain goats. Olympic National Park Credit: Saguaro, Arizona Standing guard over the Sonoran Desert with uplifted arms, the saguaro cactus has been dubbed the desert monarch. Some may reach over 50 feet tall and last up to years – the biggest may have 40 twisting arms. Beloved symbol of the Old West, this prickly giant is the linchpin of Saguaro National Park, which comprises two units straddling Tucson, Arizona. If you can, visit during the summer wildflower display – Mexican gold poppies kick off the show, followed by penstemons, lupines, desert marigolds and brittlebushes. The saguaros bloom late May through to June – beautiful white flowers that open at night and last for merely 24 hours. Among several hiking trails, one leads to ancient petroglyphs. Saguaro National Park Credit: Nowhere in the world will you find such a large array of natural arches, patiently whittled over the eons by water and wind. All that said, there are more than 200 arches here: Hikers wander around this stone fantasyland on short and long trails, while rock climbers rejoice in the surrounds. Park Avenue is a one-mile trail through a line of giant rock monoliths, looking every bit like a stony version of its New York City namesake. Arches National Park Credit: This is a park to see from the bottom up, and with your pick of different trails winding up from the valley floor, this is easy to do. Songs could be sung about 5,000-ft Angels Landing, reached via a steep, arduous trail with scary drop-offs – the reward: For the less adventurous, there are plenty of other choices, including the short trek to a trio of Emerald Pools, and Weeping Rock, with water seeping from the cliff like tears. Or hop in the car and drive scenic Highway 9 along the Virgin River and into the Checkerboard Mesa area, with its cracked sandstone grid. Zion National Park Credit: The world-famous, white-knuckle Going-to-the-Sun Road, the only road that penetrates deep into the park, provides 52 miles of peak-and-valley views as it teeters atop the Continental Divide, each vista more impressive than the last. Bikes are allowed in mornings and evenings. And then there are the glaciers – 25 remaining active ones, including the relatively accessible Grinnell and Sperry. Experience the park the way

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earlier visitors did, at Swiss-themed Many Glacier Hotel, with its broad verandas overlooking peak-encircled Swiftcurrent Lake; the hike to Grinnell Glacier begins near here.

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Chapter 2 : A Centennial " And Uncertain Future " For America's National Parks | Cognoscenti

America The Beautiful: National Parks Quarters Collector Map In this commemorative quarter series running from to , the United States mint is issuing one quarter for each state, plus the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, to honor national parks and other notable sites -- from natural.

As snow melts, wildflowers bloom and waterfalls roar, generations of visitors have flocked to the natural wonders that dot the American landscape to say nothing of all the amazing cultural sites the National Park Service protects. The National Park Service was created a century ago" August 25, to be exact" to keep an eye on the growing treasure trove of national parks. We looked at the future summer temperatures in all the parks in the Lower 48 states except Dry Tortugas National Park sorry, Fort Jefferson lovers! The results could make you sweat. That means currently cool mountainous parks could be as hot as the plains. Parks in the Southeast, already a pretty hot place, will face even more extreme temperatures with a climate more like southern Texas. And otherworldly Joshua Tree National Park in southern California will face the greatest geographical climate shift, with temperatures more like Abu Dhabi by We also analyzed how many more days with extreme heat the parks could face. Visitors will not only have to contend with an ice-free landscape, but also hotter temperatures. See the temperature change for every park. By , it could see nearly a month of those temperatures, and by it could get nearly 50 such days each year. That may stretch park resources thin as most parks are set up to handle summer crowds and quieter shoulder seasons. How parks deal with the change in visitation season is an open question. And all this is to say nothing about the impacts extreme heat will have on the natural resources around which we created national parks in the first place. Those are just the most visible changes. National parks in Alaska and Hawaii, along with Dry Tortugas National Park, were excluded because projections at this resolution were unavailable. Temperatures for are based on the year average of and for are based on the period Projected temperatures assume that greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current rate RCP8. The interactive map features the average summer daily high temperature June-August , while days over 90oF, 95oF, and oF were counted annually. The current period values for parks and climate divisions are based on the average calculated using a gridded observational dataset by Ed Maurer of Santa Clara University.

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Chapter 3 : America's National Parks Map -- Updated for | National Park Posters

Filled with colorful maps, charts, and photographs, this book documents the spread of GIS into every corner of the National Park Service and details its use in repairing trails and roads, locating artifacts, restoring American battlefields, guiding development, understanding wildfires, and protecting fragile lands.

The Board is a congressionally chartered body of twelve citizens appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Established under the Historic Sites Act of 1908, it is charged to provide advice on matters relating to operations in the parks and management of the National Park Service. In developing this report, the full Board met five times and subcommittees of board members an additional eight times. The Board consulted with representatives of organizations concerned about national parks, academics knowledgeable about park issues, and National Park Service employees working in the parks and in park service administrative offices nationwide. The Board collaborated with the National Geographic Society to produce this report. Though the world has changed profoundly since the first national parks were created more than a century ago, the national park idea continues to provide benefits of fundamental importance to the nation. So, too, does an array of programs now administered by the Park Service that extends these benefits to virtually every community in America. In looking to the future we must see to it as a nation and as a people that the National Park System and the national park idea continue to flourish. It is a pact between generations, a promise from the past to the future. In 1908, Congress established the National Park Service to conserve the parks "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. We must envision and ensure a system of parks and programs that benefits a new generation of citizens in a changing world. National parks are greatly admired. Inspiring us, uplifting our spirits, they serve as powerful reminders of our national origins and destiny. Yet there are opportunities unfulfilled. The parks should reach broader segments of society in ways that make them more meaningful in the life of the nation. As a nation, we are re-examining the effectiveness of our educational institutions. The Park Service should be viewed as such an institution. Parks are places to demonstrate the principles of biology, to illustrate the national experience as history, to engage formal and informal learners throughout their lifetime, and to do these things while challenging them in exciting and motivating settings. Parks are places to stimulate an understanding of history in its larger context, not just as human experience, but as the sum of the interconnection of all living things and forces that shape the earth. When Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, it signaled a new way the world would view its land and, eventually, its seas. A youthful, growing nation absorbed in westward expansion had set aside two million acres on which no one could lawfully settle, extract minerals or timber, and-after the turn of the 19th century-even hunt. This truly American idea later spread to other nations. By the mid century, they were meccas for warm-weather vacationists. A summer pilgrimage to the great parks of the West was a rite of passage for the American family. For some it was a journey of hope to understand the American way of life; for others, to rediscover their place in the natural world. A third of all adults of this country have visited a unit of the National Park Service sometime within the past two years. Surveys show visitors give the parks an approval rating of 95 percent for their inspiring sights, useful information, and helpful personnel. The experience is often powerful and sometimes memorable over a lifetime. In these days of concern about personal safety, national parks are considered safe places to take a family. In an era of glitz and technological wizardry, they awe people with natural wonders, authentic places, and dramatic stories. At a time of public cynicism about many matters on the national scene, opinion surveys indicate that the Park Service enjoys one of the highest public approval ratings of all government agencies. From the beginning the Park Service has sought to be people-friendly. The leadership of the new organization realized that the best way to engender support for the parks was to ensure that the visitors "enjoyed" them. They set about providing facilities to promote a positive experience. Managing for people, however, had an effect on some areas the Service was supposed to protect. Villages sprang up in wild places. Fish populations were manipulated to enhance sportfishing. Popular species of

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ungulates such as bison, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep were protected, while predators such as wolves and mountain lions were trapped and shot. Bears came into favor once tourists showed a fancy for feeding them and watching them scavenge at garbage dumps. Forest fires were suppressed, despite warnings that the buildup of debris would fuel more destructive conflagrations. It is time to re-examine the "enjoyment equals support" equation and to encourage public support of resource protection at a higher level of understanding. In giving priority to visitor services, the Park Service has paid less attention to the resources it is obliged to protect for future generations. As a result, few parks have adequate inventories of flora and fauna. Most archaeological sites in the system have not been surveyed. These oversights must not continue. A sophisticated knowledge of resources and their condition is essential. The Service must gain this knowledge through extensive collaboration with other agencies and academia, and its findings must be communicated to the public. For it is the broader public that will decide the fate of these resources. The National Park System has grown dramatically since the first parks were created. It now consists of more than units in every state but Delaware. Moreover, the role of the Service has greatly expanded. Today, it is at work in communities across America, helping local citizens preserve their own heritage and recreation lands. Grants and assistance are offered to register, record and save historic places, to create state and community parks, trails and greenways, and to build local recreation facilities. The public looks upon national parks almost as a metaphor for America itself. But there is another image emerging here, a picture of the National Park Service as a sleeping giant-beloved and respected, yes; but perhaps too cautious, too resistant to change, too reluctant to engage the challenges that must be addressed in the 21st century. We are a species whose influence on natural systems is profound, yet the consequences of this influence remain only dimly understood. Our increased numbers have altered terrestrial and marine systems, strained resources and caused extinction rates never before seen. As developed landscapes press against or surround many parks, pollutants in both the air and water impact park resources. Our growing numbers encourage a drifting away from knowledge about nature and our own history as a nation and a people. The times call for respected voices to join in confronting these issues-voices that can educate and inspire, leading to greater self-awareness and national pride. The National Park Service should be one of these voices. Encourage the study of the American past, developing programs based on current scholarship, linking specific places to the narrative of our history, and encouraging a public exploration and discussion of the American experience. Adopt the conservation of biodiversity as a core principle in carrying out its preservation mandate and participate in efforts to protect marine as well as terrestrial resources. Advance the principles of sustainability, while first practicing what is preached. Actively acknowledge the connections between native cultures and the parks, and assure that no relevant chapter in the American heritage experience remains unopened. Encourage collaboration among park and recreation systems at every level-Federal, regional, state, local-in order to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans. This report, built around the challenges just cited, is an attempt to look afresh at the Park Service; the social, cultural, and political environment within which it operates, and the ways it can serve the American public more effectively. The Advisory Board clearly has made certain assumptions in developing the report. It assumes that our growing population will continue to exert pressures on all park preserves-national, state and local-and that these places will become more special, even precious, in the future. It assumes that parks of all kinds can no longer be thought of as islands with little or no connection, cultural or ecological, to their surroundings. And, finally, it assumes that the National Park Service should fulfill, to a much greater degree than at present, the education potential its creators envisioned eighty-five years ago. Budgets, policies, and organizational structure should reflect this commitment. Parks contain information that does not exist anywhere else. They are powerful resources offering unique, place-based learning opportunities. The Park Service has always considered education to be a part of its mission, but has focused on it only intermittently. Programs, exhibits, and audiovisual presentations must be developed for different ages and in multiple languages. New methods are needed to reach audiences from disparate cultures. New technologies, such as the Internet, are creating different and exciting ways of teaching and learning in and about parks. Through the

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Internet and other forms of distance learning, the public can share the wonder and excitement of a park visit. The Park Service should embrace the educational possibilities of the World Wide Web in a more systematic fashion. National Parks preserve some of the best examples of biomes that were once widespread. In a textbook, a biome is a word and an illustration. In a park it becomes a working partnership of stream and forest, fish and crustacean, bird and insect. It is also a system in which people play a major part—a fact lost on most school children and many of our citizens. Holding a salamander in Congaree Swamp, hearing the howl of a gray wolf on Isle Royale, or watching the fall migration of sandhill cranes in Denali can remind us that we are but a part of a large and infinitely complex living system. A Revolutionary War battle is merely words and lithographs until you see the terrain as patriots saw it, stand on ground once drenched with their blood, and hear the words of those who lived it. Walking the desert landscape of Manzanar or the rolling plains of Washita Battlefield makes us think differently about what we have to learn from the echoes of that past. Educators tell us that linking classroom learning with experiences in the field produces better results. Over the years, Park Service staff assisted by educators, scientists, historians, and volunteers have developed exciting and effective field-based teaching techniques. At Great Smoky Mountains National Park, high school and university students are helping catalogue species, an exercise that not only provides a much-needed inventory but also points the way into careers in biology. A live moth trap devised by students has resulted in discovery of many new species of moths. At the Center, students can explore how canals advanced industrial expansion in the 19th century and re-enact, through role-playing episodes, the experiences of immigrant factory workers. These examples of parks as part of the education process can and should be expanded to serve schools all over the country. Learning, however, is not limited to schools and colleges and universities. It is a life-long undertaking, our formal education marking only a beginning point. Parks offer citizens of all ages opportunities to strengthen their connections to the environment and to renew their sense of wonder and appreciation for our democracy. The Service should ensure that national park programs relate to broad historical themes and to a context that is larger than any individual park. The Service should present human and environmental history as seamlessly connected. How one shaped the other is the story of America; they are indivisible.

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Chapter 4 : List of national parks of the United States - Wikipedia

Books mapping the future of americas national parks stewardship through geographic information systems PDF, ePub, Mobi Page 1 mapping the future of americas national parks stewardship through geographic information systems.

Bilmes and Will Shaforth write that climate change, growing tourism, decaying infrastructure and declining federal support all jeopardize their future. In fact, 95 percent of American households feel that protecting the national parks is "extremely important," and 85 percent say they personally benefit from the existence of these places, regardless of whether or not they actually visit. Robust public-private partnership is critical to the future of the national parks. However, the parks currently face multiple threats. Climate change, growing tourism, decaying infrastructure and declining federal support all jeopardize their future. Moreover, the annual budget has been shrinking as a result of congressional cutbacks: Taxpayers think their parks are worth much, much more. Four out of five respondents said they were willing to pay higher taxes to prevent cuts to the parks and key park programs, such as education and historical stewardship. In order to effectively maintain and appropriately enhance the National Park System for future generations, we need to collectively support and advocate for a new financial model. Individuals, foundations and corporations have long played a role in how the parks are supported and enhanced. Robust public-private partnership is critical to the future of the national parks. To date, it has funded essential education programs, historic preservation, wildlife protection and building repairs at hundreds of national parks, monuments and recreation areas. This type of support has also made possible the creation of new parks. This could include an endowment such as those that are widely used to provide long-term financial stability to universities and museums. An endowment would leverage limited federal resources. Such programs could include educational opportunities for young people, infrastructure restoration and rehabilitation by conservation corps, and designing innovative ways to tell the American story. The parks belong to all of us, and we all share the responsibility of supporting them. There is some precedent for this model in the federal government: Both the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress have charitable trusts that supplement federal funding. Public-private partnerships and philanthropic support of our parks are essential complements to annual appropriations, not replacements for them.

Chapter 5 : The Future of National Parks is Going to be a Lot Hotter - Scientific American

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Chapter 6 : The National Parks: America's Best Idea: | PBS

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Chapter 7 : America's 20 best national parks

Summertime is primetime for national parks. As snow melts, wildflowers bloom and waterfalls roar, generations of visitors have flocked to the natural wonders that dot the American landscape (to).

Chapter 8 : Leslie Armstrong (Author of Mapping the Future of America's National Parks)

The National Parks System officially turned in , and it could easily take that long to see America's vast and impressive

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range of landscapes. Let us help. This short list of the country's must-sees includes parks that stand out for sheer beauty (Glacier National Park), enormity (the Grand.

Chapter 9 : The National Parks: America's Best Idea: Lesson Plans | PBS

To reflect on the past years and look to the future of parks, PERC held a three-day workshop with papers ranging from the role of private enterprise in establishing national parks to the importance of dynamic ecology in managing grizzly bears in Yellowstone and wolves in Isle Royale.